We claim:

1. A steering wheel comprising:

(a) a base structure; and

(b) at least one covering element applied onto said base structure, wherein said covering element comprises

(i) at least one internal structural layer comprising a thermoplastic material containing reinforcing fibers, the reinforcing fibers comprising about 10 to about 80% by weight of the internal structural layer, and

(ii) at least one external layer located on a side of the internal structural layer distal from said base structure and having an aesthetic function.

2. The steering wheel according to claim 1, wherein said fibers are in the form of a woven fabric, the reinforcing fibers being at least about 12.0 mm long.

3. The steering wheel according to claim 1, wherein said fibers are in the form of a non woven fabric, the reinforcing fibers being at least about 12.0 mm long.

4. The steering wheel according to claim 2, wherein the amount of said reinforcing fibers in the internal structural layer is within the range of about 20 to about 60% by weight of the internal structural layer.

5. The steering wheel according to claim 3, wherein the amount of said reinforcing fibers in the internal structural layer is within the range of about 20 to about 60% by weight of the internal structural layer.

6. The steering wheel according to claim 1, wherein the weight of the internal structural layer is within the range of about 500 to about 3000 g/m^2.

7. The steering wheel according to claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic material of the internal structural layer is selected from the group consisting of: polyesters, polyacrylates, and polymethacrylates, homo and copolymers of polypropylene and polyolefines, homo and copolymers of polypropylene and polyolefins grafted with compounds having functional groups, and mixtures thereof.

8. The steering wheel according to claim 1, wherein the fibers located in the thermoplastic material of the internal structural layer are selected from the group consisting of: fiber glass, carbon fiber, aluminum fiber, natural fibers such as cotton, sisal, jute, linen, hemp and similar; resin and plastic material fibers such as polyester, polyolefins, polyamides and polyaramides and a mix thereof, as long as the fibers have a melting temperature higher than the melting temperature of the thermoplastic material.

9. The steering wheel according to claim 7, wherein the fibers located in the thermoplastic material of the internal structural layer are selected from the group consisting of: fiber glass, carbon fiber, aluminum fiber, natural fibers such as cotton, sisal, jute, linen, hemp and similar; resin and plastic material fibers such as polyester, polyolefins, polyamides and polyaramides and a mix thereof, as long as the fibers have a melting temperature higher than the melting temperature of the thermoplastic material.

10. The steering wheel according to claim 1, wherein the at least one external layer located on a side of the internal structural layer distal from said base structure comprises wood.

11. The steering wheel according to claim 7, wherein the at least one external layer located on a side of the internal structural layer distal from said base structure comprises wood.

12. The steering wheel according to claim 8, wherein the at least one

external layer located on a side of the internal structural layer distal from said base structure comprises wood.

13. The steering wheel according to claim 9, wherein the at least one external layer located on a side of the internal structural layer distal from said base structure comprises wood.

14. A steering wheel comprising:

(a) a base structure;

(b) at least one internal structural layer adhered directly to the base structure and comprising a thermoplastic material containing reinforcing fibers; and

(c) an external layer comprising wood located on a side of the internal structural layer distal from said base structure.

15. A component for a motor vehicle interior comprising:

(a) a base structure; and

(b) at least one covering element applied onto said base structure, wherein said covering element comprises

(i) at least one internal structural layer comprising a thermoplastic material containing reinforcing fibers, the reinforcing fibers comprising about 10 to about 80% by weight of the internal structural layer, and

(ii) at least one external layer located on a side of the internal structural layer distal from said base structure and having an aesthetic function.

16. A process for the production of a steering wheel having a base structure and at least one external covering element applied onto said structure, comprising the steps of:

(a) placing at least one layer of structural material and at least one layer of decorative material inside a mold, said at least one layer of structural material including a thermoplastic material and reinforcing fibers located in said thermoplastic material;

(b) heating the mold to a temperature sufficient to shape said layer of reinforced thermoplastic material; and

(c) bonding together and shaping said structural and decorative layers by pressure thermoforming to provide a composite material outer cover.

17. The process according to claim 16, wherein said layer or layers of structural material are heated before feeding them to a heated mold.

18. The process according to claim 16, wherein said mold is heated to a temperature within the range of Tf to (Tf + 20°C) where Tf is the melting temperature of said thermoplastic material.

19. The process according to claim 16, wherein said mold is cooled after having shaped and bound together said layers.

20. The process according to claim 16, wherein producing two covering elements shaped as half shells and by joining said half shells together around said base structure by welding.

21. The process according to claim 16, wherein molding a internal structural layer including thermoplastic material in fiber form and reinforcing fibers for said thermoplastic material fibers.

22. The process according to claim 21, wherein said fibers of said thermoplastic material and said reinforcement fibers are mixed together in the form of a woven or non-woven fabric.